



# Development of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Overview of the Global Context

*Informal consultation with the Executive Board  
14 December 2016*



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

- Global context: Key changes in the global environment with an impact on the gender equality agenda
- Normative context: major developments and how they impact the articulation of UN Women's results
- Substantive context: overview of developments in policy and knowledge and how they feed into UN Women's programmatic work

The **Beijing+20 review and appraisal** provided an opportunity comprehensive stocktaking on the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda, as well as a detailed contextual analysis identifying key trends and developments that influence the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The 2016 **midterm review of the Strategic Plan** built on the Beijing+20 and analyzed how these trends and developments impact on UN Women's work and the achievement.

The **development of the new Strategic Plan 2018-2021** will be anchored in the conclusions from these two processes and supplemented by additional information and analysis based on recent trends.

This presentation looks at key elements in the **political, economic and social contexts** that will need to be taken into account.

## Political context

### **Global political shifts and increasing political commitment for the achievement of gender equality:**

- Beijing+20 Political Declaration
- Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
- Step it Up: A Commitment to Action and Global Leaders Meeting: unprecedented political commitment at the highest level

### **An implementation gap:**

- Global commitment is not always translated into action at the national level
- Uneven implementation of legal frameworks
- Conservative attitudes in regards to gender equality in some contexts and challenges to a safe and enabling environment for civil society and women's human rights defenders

### **The shift in the nature and complexity of peace and security threats:**

- Unprecedented and increasingly protracted conflict and humanitarian crises
- Increasing displacement driven by armed conflict and violence, with 8.6 million new displaced people in 2015
- The rise and spread of violent extremism

## Economic context

- A **global economy** which is not working for women
- Slow pace of economic recovery and **continued austerity measures** disproportionately adversely affecting women and families
- **Shifting funding flows** result in reduction of funding of women's civil society organizations and UN Women
- Globalization: **shrinking fiscal and policy space** and its impact on human rights, gender equality and public services/social protection
- **Climate change** and natural resource management impacting urban and rural livelihoods
- An increasing number of **companies** are developing and implementing gender equality policies for the workplace, market place and community, but major challenges in women's participation in the economy, including in the private sector, remain

## Social context

- Increasing **inequalities** within and across countries and intersectionality of inequalities and discrimination
- Increasing **population** of young women at the same time as an aging population: implications and demographic dividends
- **Violence against women and girls** remains a problem of major proportions, affecting millions of women and girls worldwide
- **Health pandemics**
- Slow progress for **women's human rights** and increasing challenges for women's human rights defenders
- **Modern technology and social media** presenting opportunities to disrupt the marginalization and isolation facing many women and girls
- Greater recognition of women's empowerment as a **precondition for sustainable development**

## Normative Guidance: key documents

- CSW 59 Political Declaration
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) on women, peace and security
- Recent CSW Agreed Conclusions
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- The New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)
- SAMOA Pathway Outcome Document (SIDS)
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- High-level Midterm Review of the LDC Programme of Action
- Outcome of the UNGASS on World Drug Problem
- Political Declaration on Ending AIDS
- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

## **Normative guidance: overarching issues**

- Foundational basis: Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW Convention – need for accelerated implementation
- Universality
- Integration and interlinkages: economic, social, environmental dimensions
- Human rights-based approach
- Gender mainstreaming
- Leave no one behind: addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; reaching those furthest behind first
- Multi-stakeholder participation and partnerships



## Normative guidance: how to accelerate implementation

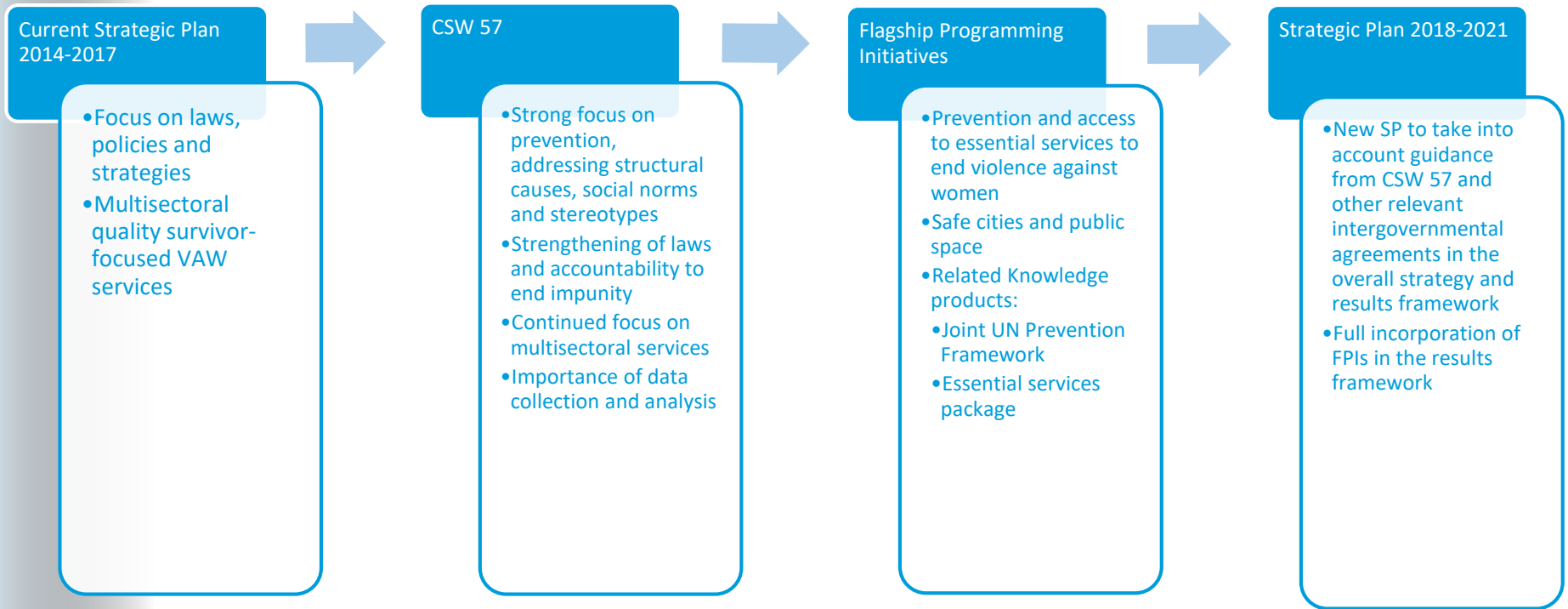
- Gender equality as a goal and a means
  - Gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Implementation strategies (CSW 59)
  - Strengthen laws, policies and strategies
  - Strengthen institutional arrangements, including mechanisms for gender equality
  - Transform discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes
  - Increase investment to close resource gaps
  - Strengthen accountability for the implementation of existing commitments
  - Enhance capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation
- Women's leadership and participation in all areas of decision-making

## Normative guidance: how it impacts on UN Women's work

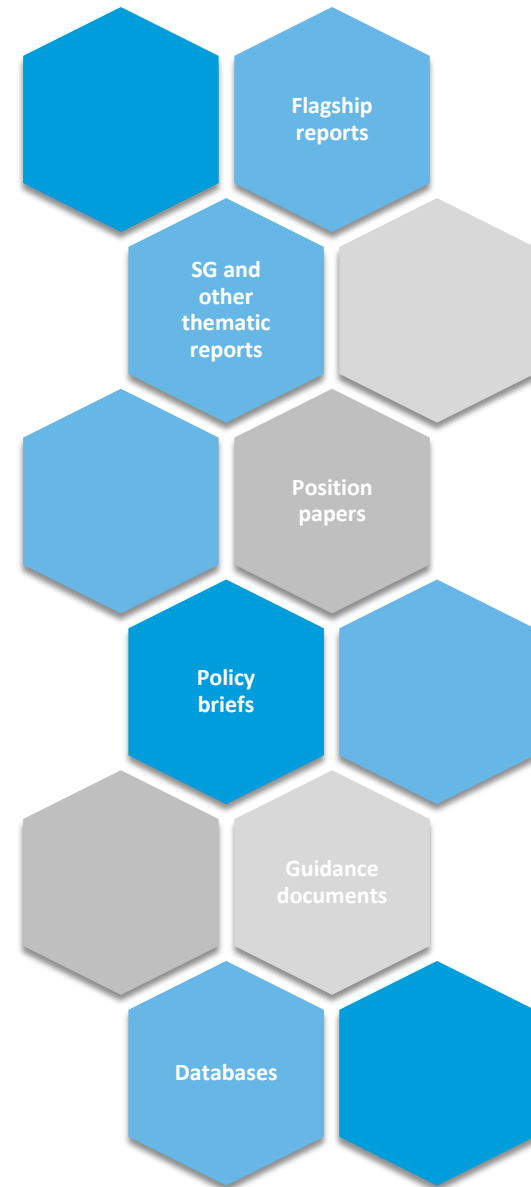
- **Prevention** – added focus resulting from CSW57 AC, GA 69 and 70 resolutions
  - addressing structural and underlying barriers and risk factors; linking violence against women and women's economic empowerment, political participation
- **Sectoral and thematic areas** – expanded gender equality and thematic action catalogues broaden scope for support
  - SIDS – SAMOA Pathway: food security, water/sanitation, peaceful societies, capacity building
  - LDC Istanbul Programme of Action Mid-term review: agriculture, climate change, DRR, financing, migration
  - South-South cooperation
- **Contexts:** Differential impact requires comprehensive gender-responsive action; humanitarian action
  - Paris Agreement setting the stage for comprehensive approach
  - New three-year work programme on gender (COP22)
  - Gender-responsive action in all stages of humanitarian action

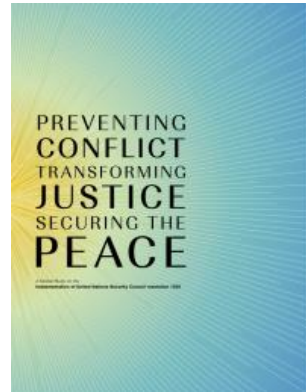
How does normative guidance translate into the design of the Strategic Plan?

## An example on the elimination of violence against women



- Policy thinking and substantive knowledge generated in the last 4 years by UN Women and others will inform planned results and strategies for the new Strategic Plan
- A number of UN Women knowledge products are particularly relevant

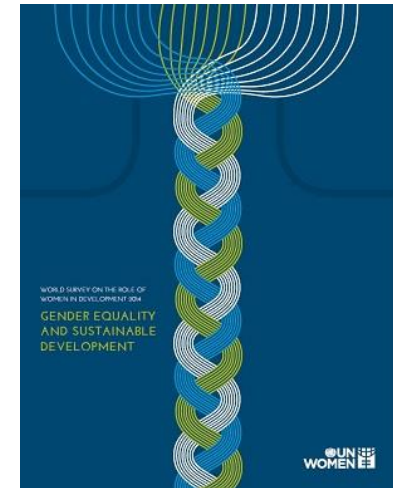




Flagship reports

Progress of the World's Women on economic and social policies (2015)

Global Study on UN SC resolution 1325 (2015)

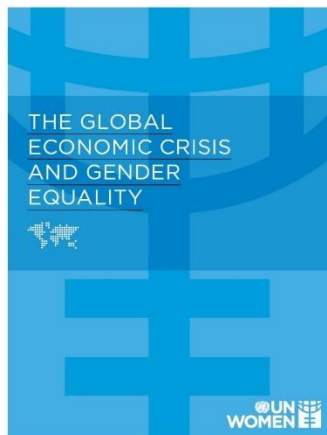


Prevention of violence against women and girls (2013)

World Survey of the Role of Women in Development on Gender equality and Sustainable development (2014)

Beijing+20 review (2015)

SG and other thematic reports



Position papers

Post-2015 sustainable development agenda (2013)

The global economic crisis (2014)

Monitoring gender equality in the 2030 Agenda (2015)

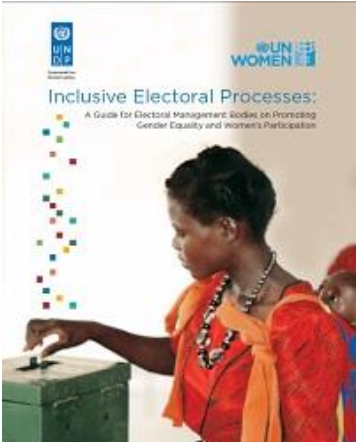


**Policy briefs**

on a range of issues, including unpaid care, social protection, gender pay gaps, macroeconomic policy

Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence  
Inclusive electoral processes guide

**Guidance documents**



**Databases**

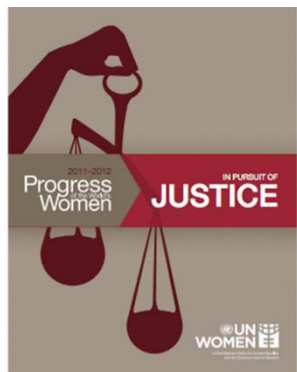
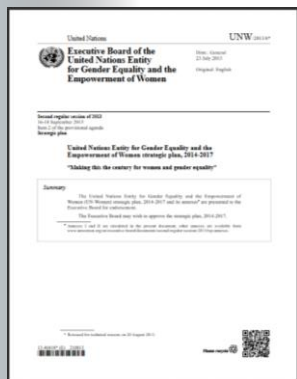
Global Database on VAW  
Constitutional Database

## Some takeaways from key knowledge products:

- **Evidence and arguments for UN Women's work on the 2030 agenda**, including the need to address gender inequalities and monitor progress through the stand-alone goal (Goal 5) as well as across all other goals.
- Growing **scale and change in the nature of conflicts** significantly affect women and overall SDG achievement in the fragile states. Evidence confirms that women's participation in conflict resolution and recovery leads to a more sustainable peace outcome, therefore UN Women work requires thorough conflict analysis and risk assessment, as well as specific focus on WPS.
- The need for consensus for **macroeconomic policies that support employment** creation for women.
- A critical mass of evidence on the **centrality of unpaid care work** for gender equality and women's empowerment as well as **concrete policy options** for recognizing, reducing and redistributing this work more equally which inform UN Women's work on women's economic empowerment
- Greater support for **women's collective action**, the revision of labor laws and the strengthening of government and corporate policies
- Evidence and recommendations on **gender-responsive social protection**, including social protection floors that guarantee basic income security for women across the life cycle

## An example of how knowledge products can inform strategic planning and programming

### Access to Justice



#### Current Strategic Plan 2014-2017

- Few explicit references to access to justice
- No dedicated outcome or output

#### Progress of the World's Women: In pursuit of justice

- Reforming discriminatory laws as a basis for an effective justice system
- Role played by justice service providers, including the judiciary and police
- Plurality of justice systems and the need to adapt justice programming to each context

#### Country programme impact

- Inclusion in country programmes
- Access to justice in the occupied Palestinian territories
- Deepening and renewing existing programmes on access to justice in Ecuador

#### Flagship Programming Initiative

- Key learnings from *Progress* incorporated in the FPI
- 3 outcomes: laws and policies, capacity and awareness

#### New Strategic Plan 2018-2021

- The new SP will need to fully integrate access to justice in one of its outcome areas as a key strategy to achieve gender equality



# Thank you!



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